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Identical letters dated 17 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Presidency of the European Union, I should be grateful if you would circulate the "European Council Presidency Conclusions on Kosovo" (see annex), adopted in Brussels on 14 December 2007 as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) João **Salgueiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

07-64882 (E) 181207

Annex to the identical letters dated 17 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

European Council Presidency Conclusions on Kosovo Brussels, 14 December 2007

On Kosovo, the European Council noted the conclusion of the Troika process on 10 December and the final report submitted by the Contact Group to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It expressed its gratitude to the Troika for having tirelessly explored all options to secure a negotiated settlement of the status of Kosovo. In particular, it thanked Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, the European Union's representative to the Troika, for his efforts.

The European Council underlined that the negotiating process facilitated by the Troika between the parties on Kosovo's future status has been exhausted. In this context, it deeply regretted that the two parties were unable to reach a mutually acceptable agreement despite the Troika's comprehensive and good faith efforts, fully supported by Member States of the European Union.

The European Council welcomed the fact that both parties have repeatedly committed during the Troika process to refrain from any activities or statements which might endanger the security situation and to avoid violence. This commitment to peace, which is also important for regional stability, must continue.

The European Council agreed with the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable and, thus, stressed the need to move forward towards a Kosovo settlement, which is essential for regional stability. Such a settlement should ensure a democratic, multiethnic Kosovo committed to the rule of law, and to the protection of minorities and of cultural and religious heritage.

The European Council underlined its conviction that resolving the pending status of Kosovo constitutes a sui generis case that does not set any precedent.

The European Council noted that the Security Council will address this issue in December. The European Council underlined that the European Union stands ready to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region and in implementing a settlement defining Kosovo's future status. It stated the European Union's readiness to assist Kosovo in the path towards sustainable stability, including by the European Security and Defence Policy mission and a contribution to an international civilian office as part of the international presences. The General Affairs and External Relations Council is invited to determine the modalities for the mission and when to launch it. The Secretary-General/High Representative is requested to prepare the mission in discussion with the responsible authorities in Kosovo and the United Nations. The European Union will also be ready to assist economic and political development through a clear European perspective, in line with the European perspective of the region.

The European Council reaffirmed that the future of the Western Balkans lies within the European Union. It considered that a stable and prosperous Serbia fully integrated into the family of European nations is important for the stability of the region. In this regard, it encouraged Serbia to meet the necessary conditions to allow

its Stabilization and Association Agreement to be signed rapidly and, in the light of Serbia's considerable institutional capacity and recalling its conclusions of December 2006, it reiterated its confidence that progress on the road towards the European Union, including candidate status, can be accelerated.